GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3359
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
DETAILS ON LABELS OF MEDICINES IN HINDI
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether from 2nd October 2006 onwards, it has been made compulsory to print the name and price of the medicines in Hindi on the labels besides English;

(b) if so, whether other information in English provided on the labels of the medicines is also to be printed in Hindi so that people can understand them easily;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether all the companies are following the rule; and

(e) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (e) : No, Sir. Bilingual labelling is not mandatory for medicines. However Pharma industry was requested to print names of the medicine, manufacturing date, expiry date and MRP in Hindi in addition to the existing system of English. Though the action of Pharma companies on this request of bilingual labels has been proposed to be voluntary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has been requested to amend the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules to make it compulsory. Pharma PSUs and many Private Sector companies have already started affixing bilingual labels to their products.